

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080077

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM BELL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PN, PFOR

SUBJECT: U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: REBUTTAL TO  
REAGAN REMARKS ON PANAMA.

1. WE TELEPHONED YOU PRIOR TO GOVERNOR REAGAN'S MARCH 31  
NATIONWIDE TV ADDRESS THE TEXT OF HIS REMARKS ON THE CANAL  
ISSUE. WE ADVISED YOU YESTERDAY THAT THE  
DEPARTMENT HAD ISSUED A DOCUMENT REBUTTING THE GOVERNOR'S  
REMARKS ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES INCLUDING THE CANAL ONE.  
TEXT OF THE SECTION ON PANAMA FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN QUOTE. THE FACTS: NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE  
UNITED STATES AND PANAMA ON THE CANAL HAVE BEEN PURSUED  
BY THREE SUCCESSIVE AMERICAN PRESIDENTS. THE PURPOSE OF  
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THESE NEGOTIATIONS IS TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL SECURITY,

NOT DIMINISH IT. THE ISSUE IS NOT BETWEEN US AND TORRIJOS. IT IS BETWEEN US AND ALL OTHER WESTERN HEMISPHERE NATIONS -- WITHOUT EXCEPTION. NO RESPONSIBLE AMERICAN CAN IGNORE THE VOICES OF THE LATIN AMERICAN STATES.

3. GOVERNOR REAGAN'S VIEW THAT THE CANAL ZONE IS 'SOVEREIGN U.S. TERRITORY EVERY BIT THE SAME AS ALASKA AND ALL THE STATES THAT WERE CARVED FROM THE LOUISIANA

PURCHASE' IS TOTALLY WRONG. THE CANAL ZONE IS NOT AND NEVER HAS BEEN 'SOVEREIGN U.S. TERRITORY.' LEGAL SCHOLARS HAVE BEEN CLEAR ON THIS FOR THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY. UNLIKE CHILDREN BORN IN THE UNITED STATES, FOR EXAMPLE, CHILDREN BORN IN THE CANAL ZONE ARE NOT AUTOMATICALLY CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES. END QUOTE.

4. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THIS REBUTTAL STANDS AS A REITERATION OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH RESOLVE TO CONCLUDE AN EQUITABLE NEW TREATY WITH PANAMA -- A RESOLVE WHICH IS BROUGHT INTO SHARPER FOCUS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THIS MOST RECENT EXECUTIVE BRANCH STATEMENT ON THE ISSUE.

5. UNFORTUNATELY, WHAT IS OBVIOUS OFTEN ESCAPES THE PANAMANIAN. ACCORDINGLY WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR DRAWING ATTENTION TO IT AT AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL.

6. THIS IS ESPECIALLY DESIRABLE DURING THIS UNUSUALLY LONG HIATUS BETWEEN NEGOTIATING ROUNDS. WHILE THE PANAMANIAN SAY THEY UNDERSTAND THE TECHNICAL REASONS FOR THE HIATUS, THEY TEND TO FORGET, SO IT IS WELL TO REASSURE THEM. KISSINGER

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